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BUDLEIGH SALTERTON  
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

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ANNUAL REPORT  
OF THE  
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH  
FOR THE YEAR  
1951

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COUNCIL OFFICES,  
BUDLEIGH SALTERTON.



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BUDLEIGH SALTERTON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Council Offices,  
BUDLEIGH SALTERTON.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE  
YEAR ENDING 31ST DECEMBER, 1951.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you my Annual Report for the year ending the 31st December 1951.

I am pleased to record that the general health of the inhabitants of the district remained satisfactory and that the incidence of notifiable infectious disease throughout the year was low.

The live birth rate showed a decrease and the death rate a slight increase on the corresponding rates for the previous year, whilst the average age at death reached the record figure of 75.1 years.

I should like to take this opportunity of thanking the Chairman and Members of the Budleigh Salterton Urban District Council for the great help and loyal support given to me during the year.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient servant,

L. G. Anderson

Medical Officer of Health.



S T A F F


Medical Officer of Health.

L. G. ANDERSON, M.D., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Sanitary Inspector, Surveyor and Water Engineer.

MR. J. B. HOLDEN M.I.M.E., M.R.S.I.

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(d) Infant Mortality.

(Deaths of infants under 1 year of age).

	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	-	1	1
Illegitimate	-	-	-
Total	-	1	1

Infant mortality per 1,000 live births..... 25.0  
 Infant mortality per 1,000 live births England & Wales..... 29.6

3. LIVE BIRTH RATE.

During 1951, 25 male and 15 female (total 40) infants were born which represents 2 fewer male and 8 fewer female births than in the previous year. The birth rate decreased from 13.5 in 1950 to 10.60 in 1951. This birth rate however when adjusted for unusual age and sex distribution of the local population gives a standardised rate of 12.65 which is slightly less than that for England & Wales as a whole.

The following table shows the live birth rates during the last 10 years:-

	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951
Budleigh Salterton	11.2	16.2	17.4	18.3	17.3	15.4	10.8	11.4	13.5	10.6
Standardised	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	15.8	12.65
England & Wales	15.8	16.5	17.6	16.1	19.1	20.5	17.9	16.7	15.8	15.5

4. ILLEGITIMATE BIRTH RATE.

Of the 50 infants born during 1951, only one was illegitimate

The illegitimate birth rate for the last 10 years is as follows:-  
 (Rate per 1,000 total live births)

1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951
66.5	34.5	60.8	132.8	47.0	17.6	125.0	23.2	60.0	25.0

5. STILL BIRTHS.

I am pleased to record that there was no still birth in the Budleigh Salterton Urban District during the year.



6. DEATHS.

During 1951, 79 persons normally residing in the Urban District died (39 males, 40 females), which represents a corrected death rate of 20.8 but which when allowance for age and sex distribution has been made represents a "Standardised" death rate of 11.7. This rate is slightly lower than that of England & Wales as a whole (12.5)

The following table shows the "corrected" and "standardised" death rates for Budleigh Salterton U.D. for the last 10 years:-

	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951
Corrected	16.4	22.7	20.1	20.2	21.3	20.8	16.5	21.4	19.2	20.8
Standardised	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	12.0	10.6	11.7
England & Wales	11.6	12.1	11.6	11.4	11.5	12.0	10.8	11.7	11.6	12.5

(a) Causes of death.

The following table shows the causes of death ( data supplied by the Registrar General).

Disease	Males	Females	Total
Cancer			
Malignant Neoplasm stomach	-	-	-
"                  lungs	2	-	2
"                  breast	-	-	-
"                  uterus	-	-	-
"                  other sites	4	6	10
Diabetes	-	1	1
Coronary disease, angina	7	4	11
Hypertension with heart disease (High blood pressure)	-	3	3
Other heart disease.	4	6	10
Other circulatory disease	2	1	3
Vascular lesions of the nervous system	7	7	14
Influenza	3	4	7
Bronchitis	4	-	4
Other diseases of respiratory system	-	-	-
Nephritis & Nephrosis	1	3	4
Hyperplasia of prostate	2	-	2
Other defined & ill-defined diseases	2	2	4
Motor Vehicle Accidents	-	-	-
All other accidents.	1	3	4
All causes	39	40	79



As in the preceding year the most prevalent cause of death was diseases of the heart 27 cases (35%), vascular lesions of the nervous system ( cerebral haemorrhage, thrombosis, etc. ) caused 14 deaths (18%) and cancer 10 deaths (12.8%).

No deaths from motor vehicle accidents were recorded and the three cases of deaths from other accident were:-

1. Male 33 Years who died as a result of a wasp sting.
2. Female 4 Weeks who was suffocated by being overlaid by her mother
3. Female 72 Years who died from multiple injuries sustained by falling from an upstairs window.

(b) Age at death.

The average age at death during 1951 was 75.1 i.e. slightly higher than that for the previous year. The following table shows the average age at death during the last four years:-

	1948	1949	1950	1951
Male	68.2	71.6	70.0	75.6
Female	71.3	66.8	74.0	74.7
Both sexes	71.5	68.9	72.2	75.1

The following table shows the incidence of deaths at various age groups (from returns supplied by local Registrar of Births & Deaths).

Age Group	Males	Females	Total	Percentage
Under 1 year	-	1	1	1.3
1, and under 2 yrs	-	-	-	-
2-	-	-	-	-
5 -	-	-	-	-
10 -	-	1	1	1.3
20 -	-	-	-	-
30 -	1	-	1	1.3
40 -	-	1	1	1.3
50 -	2	1	3	3.8
60 -	10	4	14	18.0
70 -	7	13	20	25.6
80 -	16	14	30	37.0
90 - 100	3	5	8	10.4
All ages	39	40	79	





7. INFANT MORTALITY.

7.

One female infant of 4 weeks of age died during the year, which represents a rate of 25.0 per 1,000 live births. The child was asphyxiated through being overlaid by its mother.

8. DEATHS FROM ZYMOTIC DISEASES.

	Males	Females	Total
Smallpox	-	-	-
Measles	-	-	-
Whooping Cough	-	-	-
Scarlet Fever	-	-	-
Enteric Fever	-	-	-
Diarrhoea under 2 years of age	-	-	-
Total	-	-	-

9. CANCER.

During 1951, 12 cases of deaths from Cancer were recorded which is two fewer than occurred during the previous year.

The various parts of the body affected are shown in the following table:-

	Males	Females	Total
Stomach	-	-	-
Lungs & bronchus	2	-	2
Other malignant & lymphatic neoplasms	4	6	10
Total	6	6	12

The incidence of deaths from cancer during the last 10 years is as follows:-

	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951
Males	4	7	5	6	8	10	4	7	5	6
Females	5	6	8	10	14	8	8	7	9	6
Total	9	13	13	16	22	18	12	14	14	12
Rate per 1,000 resident population	2.25	3.6	3.45	4.35	5.95	4.9	3.25	3.74	3.67	3.18

10. INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

During 1951, 54 cases of infectious notifiable diseases were notified - a slight increase in the number for the previous year (46). Although there was a very high incidence of measles in the surrounding districts the number notified in Budleigh Salterton remained low (16). this being accounted for by the large number of children who suffered from the infection in 1949 - two years previously.

Neither measles nor whooping cough caused any deaths.

Of the 7 cases of Pneumonia one male aged 70 years died after contracting a pneumonia of the influenzal type.

No cases of Diphtheria or poliomyelitis occurred in the district.



The table below shows the incidence of the various notifiable infectious diseases for the year 1951:-

Disease	No: of cases notified	Deaths.
Measles	16	-
Whooping Cough	26	-
Erysipelas	1	-
Ac. Primary Pneumonia	7	1
Total	50	1

The following table shows the incidence of notifiable infectious diseases grouped according to age:-

	Under 1 Yr.	1-2	3-4	5-10	15-20	35-45	65-	Total
Measles	-	3	1	2	9	1	-	16
Whooping Cough	-	2	2	4	3	13	-	26
Erysipelas	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Ac. Pneumonia	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	7
All causes	-	6	3	4	5	23	1	50

Table showing the seasonal incidence of Measles and Whooping Cough:-

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apl	May	Jun	Jly	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Measles	3	-	3	1	5	4	-	-	-	-	-	-
Whooping Cough	-	-	1	1	-	4	9	4	7	-	-	-



Below is tabulated the incidence (numbers notified) of various infectious diseases during the last 10 years:-

	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951
Measles	-	3	7	165	10	22	-	131	7	16
Whooping Cough	-	57	4	9	-	26	3	25	19	26
Scarlet Fever		1	13	-	2	-	2	1	4	-
Diphtheria	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	1	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pneumonia	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	10	7
Typhoid Fever	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Erysipelas	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	2	5	1
Sonne Dysentry	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-

#### 11. TUBERCULOSIS.

During 1951, 5 new cases of Tuberculosis were notified ( 2 males and three females )

The age distribution of new cases, localisation of the disease and deaths from tuberculosis notified during 1951 was as follows:-

AGE PERIOD	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	RESPIRATORY		NON-RESPIRATORY		RESPIRATORY		NON-RESPIRATORY	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0 - 1								
1 -				1				
5 -				1				
15 -								
25 -	1							
35 -	1							
45 -		1						
55 -								
65 -								
All Ages.	2	1		2				
Total	5				Nil			



The number of cases still on the Tuberculosis Register at the end of the year was as follows:-

	Males	Females	Total
Pulmonary	8	7	15
Non-Pulmonary	3	12	15
Total	11	19	30

## 12. NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE ACT.

The Health Service provided by the Local Health Authority (Devon County Council) under Part II and III of the Act as applicable to your district are briefly set out below.

### PART II.

#### (a) HOSPITAL FACILITIES.

##### (i) General.

The Urban District is well served by the Budleigh Salterton Cottage Hospital, (Tel: No: Budleigh Salterton 20) where there is accommodation for:-

Male 9 beds.  
Female 8 beds.  
Children 1 cot.  
Private Wards 4.

In addition to the above use is made of:-

1. Royal Devon & Exeter Hospital, Southernhay East, Exeter (Phone 2261) - 300 beds.
2. Princess Elizabeth Orthopaedic Hospital, Buckerell Bore, Exeter, (Phone 54217) - 114 beds.
3. West of England Eye Infirmary, Magdalen Street, Exeter (Phone 3183) - 62 beds.
4. Exmouth Cottage Hospital, Claremont Grove, Exmouth (Phone 4381) 39 beds and 4 cots.

The Plastic Surgery Centre for Devon is held at the Royal Devon & Exeter Hospital on the 2nd Thursday in each month. Mr. Fitz-Gibbons and Mr. Bodenham of the S.W. Regional Board attend.

##### (ii) Maternity.

1. Poltimore Nursing Home - 15 beds + 2 for Isolation.
2. Redhills House, St. Thomas, Exeter.
3. Royal Devon & Exeter Hospital for complicated or difficult cases

##### (iii) Isolation.

Cases of Infectious Diseases are admitted to the Exeter City Isolation Hospital, Whipton (Phone Exeter 67158) as in previous years.

I should like to record my sincere appreciation for the ready help and co-operation given at all times by the Medical Superintendant and Staff of that Hospital.







(iv) Smallpox.

A smallpox hospital of 28 beds at Upton Pyne administered by the Regional Hospital Board is available in case of need.

Should your Medical Officer of Health require the services of a consultant arrangements have been made to call upon:-

<u>Name</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Telephone</u>	
		<u>By Day</u>	<u>By Night</u>
Dr. C. Seward	20, West Southernhay, Exeter.	Exeter 2110	Exeter 4120
Dr. W.J. Laird	City Hospital, Exeter.	Exeter 2671 (Office)	Exeter. 3116 (Home)

(b) LABORATORY FACILITIES.

Bacteriological and Serological examinations are carried out at the Public Health Laboratory, 7, Dix's Field, Exeter (Tel. No. Exeter 54959), under the direction of Dr. B. Moore, whose ready co-operation and help I wish to acknowledge.

(c) VENEREAL DISEASE.

Under the present scheme free advice and treatment is available to all persons at the following Centre:-

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>
<u>EXETER.</u>		
Royal Devon & Exeter Hospital.	Mon. 3 - 5 p.m. Fri. 6 - 8 p.m.	Mon. 6 - 7 p.m. Fri. 3 - 5 p.m.

(d) AMBULANCE FACILITIES.

As from the 5th. July 1948, the Local Health Authority became responsible for the ambulance services in the area, and at their request the Exmouth Division of the St. John Ambulance Brigade agreed to act as their agents and continue the service commenced in 1936.

During 1951, the total number of calls received were 1320 of which accident calls numbered 153, and 21,311 miles were travelled in the course of their duties in and around Budleigh Salterton and Exmouth districts.

Three ambulances are maintained at the Ambulance Station Bastin Hall, Elm Grove, Exmouth (Tel. Exmouth 2857 ).

As in previous years the infectious diseases ambulance stationed at the Whipton Isolation Hospital was available for infectious cases.



PART III.(e) CARE OF MOTHERS & YOUNG CHILDREN.

A Health Visitor is assigned to this district and voluntary assistance is rendered at the monthly clinics by members of the B.R.C.S. and other helpers and such assistance is greatly appreciated.

The Medical Officer who attends the Infant Welfare Centres is Dr. Dawes of Budleigh Salterton.

The Centres are held at The Church Institute, Budleigh Salterton, on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays in each month from 2.30 p.m. to 4.30 p.m. During 1951 the following attendances were made.

Total No: of attend- ances of mothers	Total No: of babies attending	Total No: of Toddlers attending
410 (of which 39 cases were first attend- ances )	320 ( of which 35 were first attendances)	198 (of which 8 were first attendances)

Welfare Foods are supplied at the Infant Welfare Centre on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday afternoon in each month.

(f) MATERNITY.

There is one District Nurse Midwife in this district who resides at Little Knowle, Budleigh Salterton (Tel: No: B.S. 274).

(g) CARE OF PREMATURE INFANTS.

When necessary, arrangements can be made for the admission of a premature baby and its mother to the nearest maternity unit, in this case the Royal Devon & Exeter Hospital, Exeter.

(h) DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION

Immunisation against Diphtheria should be given at the age of 8 months and consists of a course of two injections of A.P.T. given at one month's interval. The protection thus provided should be maintained by means of a single reinforcing injection at 5 years of age and a second single reinforcing injection at 10 years of age.

The immunisation can be given by the patient's own doctor, the Medical Officer attending the Infant Welfare Centres or by the Assistant Schools Medical Officers.

During 1951, 47 children received initial immunisation and 73 were given reinforcing injections.

3. WATER SUPPLY.

The town is fortunate in having an adequate and efficient water supply and distribution system.

(a) Sources of Supply.

The source is a very deep spring which rises in a well at the Kersbrook pumping station, and the characteristics of the water have remained unchanged since it was first submitted for examination by the public analyst over 40 years ago. The main well is linked with another situated at Tidwell.



The distribution system is divided into three levels, the high level being fed from a reservoir of 60,000 gallon capacity situate at the Flagstaff, the middle level having a reservoir of 240,000 gallon capacity and situate at Sherbrook Chine, whilst the low level has a reservoir of 115,000 gallon capacity situate at the Crabpot.

The pumping plant consists of 6 electrically driven centrifugal pumps, 1 turbine driven triple ram pump, and one standby oil driven triple ram pump.

(b) Quality.

Samples are sent regularly to the County Public Health Laboratory and the reports have shown the water to be uniformly good.

The result of an analysis of a sample taken on the 14th Dec, 1951, from the pump well is as follows:-

CHEMICAL. (Results expressed as parts per 1000,000).

Chlorine present as Chlorides	2.9
Nitrogen present as Nitrites	0
Nitrogen present as Nitrates	0.72.
Phosphates	Very slight trace
Sulphates	-
Free Carbon Dioxide	-
Total Hardness equivalent to Calcium Carbonate	25.1
Temporary Hardness (annulled by boiling)	19.2
Permanent Hardness (not altered by boiling)	5.9
Saline Ammonia	0
Albuminoid Ammonia	0.0004
Oxygen absorbed immediately	-
Oxygen absorbed in 4 hours at 27° C	0.02
Lead	0.
Copper	0
Zinc	0
Iron in solution	0
Iron in sedimentary form	0
Manganese	0
Total Solid Constituents	34.0
Organic Matter observed in igniting the Solid Constituents	None
Free Chlorine	0
Hydrogen Ion Concentration equivalent to pH	7.5

BACTERIOLOGICAL.

Bacillus Coli Communis - none per 100 millilitres.

(c) Quantity.

All domestic properties are connected to the main water supply.

14. RODENT CONTROL.

During the year 1,000 baits were laid on 48 premises, resulting in 108 known casualties amongst the rats. 50 of the baits were laid in the sewerage system, but none were taken, thus indicating that there are no rats in this tide locked sewerage system.

In addition to the above, 42 visits were paid to food shops.

One establishment in the town employs a specialist firm for dealing with rats.





15. DRAINAGE & SEWERAGE.

During the year 12 new houses were connected to the main sewer. The existing system whereby all sewage is discharged into the sea between certain times of the day - 1 hour after high water and 1 hour before low water - continues to function very satisfactorily and no evidence of pollution of the beaches occurs.

The control penstock and flap valves, however, are in need of renewal, and a contract has been placed for the work to be carried out immediately.

16. HOUSE REFUSE.

House refuse is collected once weekly.

Large hotels and boarding houses are dealt with twice weekly or more often if necessary.

The controlled tip at South Road has been well maintained and is treated regularly for the control of rats.

17. FOOD SHOPS & BAKEHOUSES.

Food shops and bakehouses have been regularly inspected and any defects found have been remedied without formal action being necessary.

Unsound food condemned was as follows:-

Meat Products	-	1070 lbs.
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18. HOUSING

On the Moormead Estate 5 three-bedroomed houses and on the Meadow Road Estate 4 one-bedroomed flats have been completed and occupied during the year.

Plans have been prepared for 54 houses at Bedlands Lane and some of these were under construction at the end of the year.

3 Houses were also erected under Private Enterprise and 5 houses were converted into flats.

19. ICE CREAM.

Samples of locally produced ice cream have been submitted to the County Public Health Laboratory for examination under the methylene blue keeping test.





20. FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

## 1. INSPECTIONS FOR PURPOSES OF PROVISION AS TO HEALTH (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors.)

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(1) Factories in which sections 1,2,3,4,5 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	5	10	-	-
(2) Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	-	-	-	-
(3) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority. (including outworkers premises).	-	-	-	-
Total	5	10	-	-

## 2. CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND.

	Number of cases in which defects were found			Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred To H.M. Inspector	
			By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness				
Overcrowding				
Unreasonable temperature				
Inadequate ventilation				
Ineffective drainage of Floors				
Sanitary Conveniences				
(a) Insufficient				
(b) Unsuitable or defective				
(c) Not separate for sexes				
Other offences against the Act not including offences relating to Outwork.				
Total	-	-	-	-





